



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804
Phone 406-542-5500

April 25, 2018

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed you will find for your review, the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposal to conduct forest habitat enhancement and restoration treatments on approximately 465 acres of FWP's 1,523-acre Nevada Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA) located SE of Helmville in Powell County. The purpose is to improve elk winter forage, restore historic open-stand conditions dominated by large-diameter ponderosa pine, restore a stand structure that allows fire to burn at the low severity appropriate for the historic fire regime, recruit ponderosa pine regeneration, and reduce fuel loading. The treatments on the WMA would enhance aspen habitats, thin understory ingrowth, and improve forest resiliency by reducing the risk of stand replacement fire and beetle infestation. Treatments would include salvage logging, commercial thinning, fuels reduction (thinning, piling, burning), and removal of encroaching conifers within aspen clones and bunchgrass/sagebrush communities. To facilitate timber harvest and log hauling, an estimated 3.3 miles of road reconstruction and 0.7 miles of new road construction on the WMA would be needed.

This EA may also be obtained by mail from Region 2 FWP, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula 59804; by phoning 406-542-5540; by emailing shrose@mt.gov; or by viewing FWP's Internet website <http://fwp.mt.gov> ("Public Notices").

Comments may be made on FWP's website (information above) or may be directed to Sharon Rose at the mail or email addresses above. Comments must be received by FWP no later than May 24, 2018.

As part of the decision-making process under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), I expect to issue the Decision Notice for this EA very soon after the end of the comment period. The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission has the final decision-making authority for this proposed timber action, and we will ask the Commission to render its decision on this proposal (tentatively) at its June 14th meeting in Helena.

Sincerely,

Randy Arnold
Regional Supervisor

RA/sr